

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3961

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 26694

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NARC, TGEN, FR

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CONFERENCE
ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

REF: YOUNTS/GOSNELL TELCON - OCTOBER 11, 1973

SCI FOR POLLACK

SUMMARY: FRENCH HAVE INSISTED, SINCE IDEA OF CONFERENCE FIRST PROPOSED SPRING 1973, THAT IT BE STRICTLY CONTROLLED AND NOT PUBLICIZED. EMBASSY SURMISES FRENCH REASONING INCLUDES: 1. PUBLICITY AROUND THE CONFERENCE, WHOSE EXISTENCE TENDS TO REVEAL THE FACT THAT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ARE BEING TRAINED ON HEROIN LABS, WOULD JEOPARDIZE FRENCH ANTI-LAB PROGRAM; 2. A US-GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE ON NARCOTICS HELD IN PARIS COULD BE INTERPRETED, WRONGLY, BY THE PRESS AS ANOTHER ACCUSING FINGER POINTED AT FRANCE. ANY PUBLICITY ON CONFERENCE WOULD BE CONSIDERED A CHANGE IN POLICY AND SHOULD BE CLEARED IN ADVANCE WITH CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING FRENCH. END SUMMARY.

1. PER REQUEST REFTELCON, FOLLOWING IS BACKGROUND ON, AND EMBASSY
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APPRAISAL OF POSSIBLE REASONS FOR, FRENCH INSISTENCE ON NO

PUBLICITY FOR SUBJECT CONFERENCE.

2. BACKGROUND: IN SPRING 1973, FRENCH NARCOTICS OFFICIALS AND FONOFF NOTED NEED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY AND FOR NO PUBLICITY FOR CONFERENCE (PARIS 7282, PARA 4; PARIS 12282, PARA 2). FRENCH CONCERN HAS CONTINUED IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS, INCLUDING DURING VISIT BY PRE-CONFERENCE TEAM. CONFERENCE HANDBOOK ASSURES NO PUBLICITY PRIOR TO OR DURING CONFERENCE, STATE 198205. MOST RECENTLY, FONOFF LETTER OF OCTOBER 10 CLOSED - QUOTE - WE ATTACH THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE THAT THIS MEETING ATTRACT NO PUBLICITY WHATSOEVER, AND THAT THE CONFERENCE BE SO CONDUCTED THAT THE DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY THE CONFERENCE BE TREATED RIGOROUSLY CONFIDENTIALLY. UNQUOTE. MINISTER GIRARD FURTHER STRESSED THIS POINT IN CONVERSATION WITH SCIATT AND NOTED THAT FRENCH ARE ALREADY SERIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT INSUFFICIENT CARE WILL BE TAKEN TO PREVENT COMPROMISE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

3. FRENCH REASONS: EMBASSY SURMISES TWO POSSIBLE REASONS FOR THIS FRENCH POSITION:

A. PUBLICITY WOULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS FRENCH TECHNICAL ANTI-LAB PROJECTS.

RATIONALE: ANTI-LAB TECHNICAL PROJECTS, TO WHICH FRENCH HAVE DEVOTED SUBSTANTIAL FUNDING AND FIRST-RATE TECHNICAL RESOURCES, DEPEND ON EXISTENCE OF DETECTABLE CHEMICAL, PHYSICAL, OR AUDITORY "SIGNALS" EMANATING FROM CLANDESTINE LABS. IF CRIMINAL OPERATORS ARE FOREWARNED THAT THEY ARE TARGETS OF TECHNOLOGICAL METHODOLOGIES, THEY WILL TAKE TECHNICAL COUNTER-MEASURES TO REDUCE, CHANGE, OR DISGUISE THE LABS' EMISSIONS TO FOIL THE METHODOLOGIES. GIVEN FACT THAT IN FRENCH PRESS "NARCOTICS" MEANS "HEROIN" WHICH FURTHER MEANS "LABS," PUBLICITY FOR CONFERENCE COULD ACHIEVE THIS CALAMITOUS FOREWARNING. THE FACT THAT TECHNOLOGY WILL BE USED AGAINST THE LABS IS THE SENSITIVE INFORMATION, NOT THE TECHNIQUE ITSELF OR ITS SENSITIVITY.

B. A US-GOVERNMENT SPONSORED CONFERENCE ON NARCOTICS HELD IN PARIS COULD BE INTERPRETED WRONGLY, BY THE PRESS, THAT THE US GOVERNMENT IS POINTING ANOTHER ACCUSING CONFIDENTIAL

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FINGER AT FRENCH COOPERATION IN NARCOTICS.

RATIONALE: ALTHOUGH THE FRENCH HAVE RECENTLY MADE SINCERE, CONCERTED EFFORTS TO KNOCK OUT INTERNATIONAL HEROIN TRAFFIC AND TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE US, THEY HAVE BEEN STUNG IN THE PAST BY PRESS PLAY-UPS OF SEVERAL INCIDENTS (ANTI-FRENCH COMMENTS FROM SEVERAL CONGRESSMEN, THE FRENET-CUSACK EXCHANGES, AND THE "AFFAIR DELOUETTE"), AND THEY REMAIN

HIGHLY SENSITIVE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IF DEPT NOW PLANNING PUBLICITY PRIOR TO END OF CONFERENCE, PLEASE ADVISE FORM AND CONTENT OF PUBLICITY TO ENABLE EMBASSY TO APPROACH FRENCH AND OBTAIN REACTION. POSSIBILITIES FOR POST-CONFERENCE PUBLICITY COULD BE DISCUSSED WITH DELEGATES DURING CONFERENCE.

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